

Collen Williamson to Thomas Jefferson, June 11, 1801, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.

Williamson to Jefferson

City of Washington Jun 11 th 1801

Honourable Sir

Pleas remember that soon after your being appointed to the high office of presedente, I called upon you at your lodging and hade a short Intercourse, one the subject of the commissioners how they hade behaved Towards me, and others that was in there employee and that I have got a Judgment for the contents of my contract, they pleaded to refer the execution to the nixt court that if they hade any defence to make to bring it forward, and me to prove my Servicess accordingly I attended the court with my proofes but the commissioners nor any witness from them did not appear the truth is they hade non that could be ascertained as a witness except Hoben hade been admitted who has led them into all the mischef that has been Don in the city, as they did not attende I have got a dispensation from the court, to exemen the witness here, it is a small mater for the commissioners to be throwing away the publice money as they have don in defence of a Just caus, I was looked upon by all the Information that the first commissioners could find to be the only man fittest for the task, and it is sirtaint hade I been allowed to conduct the work in ginerel as my contract expresses, it would have been good for the publice as well as for me, but then how could the thives have hade liberty to steale and take the public matereals as they have don to a great extinte I was early instructed in arcticetry altho I only was employed heer as master mason, and in different stages of the work was under the necessity of giving instructions to him who was appointed to instruct me I built the

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first story of the presedents House and brought all the capatol above ground; before my
dismission from the publice employee and it is to be seen what hand was made of it after
wards, as I still suppose my self in the publice employee at least until the laws of the land
shall discharge me, I thought it my deuty to Inform your excelency which I expect will atone
for troubling you I should be very hapy I hade something to do in the way of my business,
while I expect to be paid I expect it will not appear to your excellency a small mater that I
was Indulzed to come from New york where I hade the best of employee and be treated as
I have been.

Honoure Sir I am with great Respect your most obedient Houmble Servnt

Collen Williamson

[Ms., *Jefferson Papers*, Library of Congress.]